

(d) which are the States to be benefited by this agreement?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to the Protocol to the Agreement regarding the Tala hydro-electric project signed on 28.7.2006 between India and the royal government of Bhutan and the subsequent Power Purchase Agreement between the designated nodal agencies of both countries signed on 27.9.2006, valid for 35 years, it has been agreed that the tariff for both primary and secondary energy will be Rs. 1.80 per unit. The two countries have also agreed on a mechanism for review of the tariff.

(c) Two out of six units of Tala Hydro Project have commissioned and the remaining units are expected to be commissioned progressively.

(d) Allocation of Tala power is to the States of Eastern Region to improve their Hydro Thermal mix and these States surrender equivalent thermal power (in lieu of allocation of Tala power) to States of Northern Region linked to the commissioning of various units of Tala project. The States likely to be benefited from the project are West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand and Orissa in the Eastern Region and Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, Delhi, U.P. and J&K in the Northern Region.

Status of Tehri Dam Project

503. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether is a fact that the Tehri Dam has started generation of electricity;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what is the expected life of this dam;

(d) whether it is also a fact that Tehri dam is located at the major geologic fault zone, where in 1991 earthquake of 6.8 had occurred and its epicenter was just 50 km from the dam; and

(e) if so, whether Government have taken sufficient measures for this?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Two units of 250 MW each of Tehri Dam & HPP Stage-I (1000 MW) have started commercial generation with effect from 22.9.2006 and 9.11.2006 respectively.

(c) The service life of Tehri Dam is expected to be more than 100 years from the point of view of economic viability.

(d) Tehri Dam project is located within the Lesser Himalayan Tectonic Block. As such, the dam site does not directly lie over any major Fault/Thrust Zone.

(e) The Government has considered in depth the seismic safety of Tehri Dam and the detailed seismology studies have been carried out by the Geological Survey of India and the Department of Earthquake Engineering of the Roorkee University with the Russian experts who were also assisted by the National Geo-physical Research Institute and Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology for determining the safe height of Tehri Dam, before according approval to the implementation of the Tehri Dam and Hydro-electric Power Project (1000 MW) in March, 1994.

In view of the continuing concern relating to seismic safety of the Tehri Dam, a Group of Experts was constituted in June, 1996 to further examine the issue of seismic safety of Tehri Dam. This Group in its report concluded that the design of the dam was safe to withstand the Maximum Credible earthquake for the region/in its vicinity.